Weapon States to review their nuclear doctrines and to take immediate steps to reduce the risk of unintentional or accidental use of nulcear weapons. The resolution urges Member States to take necessary measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, in all its aspects, and to promote nuclear disarmament, with the ultimate objective of eliminating nuclear weapons.

(c) US, France, UK and Russia voted against while China abstained in the resolution.

Pending Disciplinary Cases

*270. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2S8S given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th August, 1997, and state;

(a) disciplinary cases pending in the Ministry (Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances) and since when;

(b) whether there is any instruction of the Cabinet Secretariat for early completion of cases and preferably within one year,

(c) whether the instructions are being followed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) There is one disciplinary case pending in the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances. The proceedings in the said case were started on 18.10.96 with the issue of chargesheet on that date. However, the order dated 18.10.96 by which the chargesheet was originally issued was withdrawn on 1.4.97 and a revised chargesheet issued on the same date to make one of the charges more explicit and to issue it under the signature of the competent disciplinary authority. The order dated 18.10.96 by which the chargesheet was communicated to the charged officer was signed by a non-competent authority and as such it was void *ab initio.* The inquiry in the case by the Inquiring Authority is in progress.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The charged official has been representing time and again, questioning the validity of the procedings, on one ground or the other. The points raised by him in these representations had to be examined by the disciplinary authority and position clarified to the Inquiring Authority. In these circumstances, it has not been possible for the Inquiring Authority to proceed with the inquiry, pending suitable clarifications on the points raised by the charged official. The points raised by the charged official in his representation dated 31.8.98 were examined by the disciplinary authority and position clarified to the Inquiring Authority only in the first week of October, 1998. With a view to finishing the inquiry in one go, the Inquiring Authority had fixed four consecutive hearings starting from 7th December, 1998. However, he could not proceed with the hearings as the Defence Assistant of the charged official was not spared by his Department due to his pre-occupations with Parliamentary work.

Agro-Based Vocational Training for Women in Kerala

*271. SHRI *J.* CHITHARANJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has submitted a project for agro-based vocational training for women with the objective of imparting training to the farm women of Kerala in the latest technologies of agriculture and allied subject with a view to improve their social and economic standards through their effective participation in farm operations; and

(b) if so, the details of the project and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal received from the Kerala State Government entitled "Programme for Agro-Based Vocational Training for Women" envisages

. (i) Agro-based vocational training for farm women at an estimated cost of Rs. 17.62 crores, covering 14 districts.